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# Swiss Here for Refugee Talks

Associated Press

A cross section of Cubans who have arrived at Key West.

Associated Press

Swiss Ambassador Emil Stadelhofer flew here from Havana yesterday to work on details for an anticipated exodus of thousands of Cubans to the United States.

He arrived for weekend conferences at the State Department amid Washington optimism that an agreement will be reached soon.

Stadelhofer, the Swiss Ambassador to Cuba, declined to predict when an accord will be reached. He told newsmen he had asked to come to Washington because the status of negotiations now makes it worthwhile to talk things over directly with U.S. authorities here.

The negotiations are "proceeding in a normal way" and he himself has seen Premier Castro three times, including twice yesterday, the Swiss diplomat added.

**Number Uncertain**

Just how many will ride the proposed refugee lift to Florida still hinges on how the deal is worked out and how many Cubans decide to leave, U.S. sources said. Estimates range from 20,000 to 55,000.

Because the Swiss represent the United States in Cuba, Stadelhofer has been a middleman in negotiations set off by Castro's Sept. 28 offer to let his countrymen leave and President Johnson's Oct. 3 acceptance.

Such items as the means of transportation, identification and health checks and embarkation facilities are among the details involved in the U.S.-Cuban negotiations as well as the broader question of which refugees should get priority.

A major transportation means is expected to be an American airlift from Varadero Airport, about 85 miles east of Havana. Castro already has set up the nearby port of Camarioca for the refugee flow and the formal exodus could go partly by ship, too, informants said.

**Some Use Small Boats**

More than 1000 refugees have jumped the gun on the negotiators by crossing the Florida straits in small boats.

Reports from Key West said bad weather halted the sailing of Cuban exile boats for Florida yesterday and the Coast Guard assessed stiff penalties on several owners and operators of boats used to bring out refugees.

More than 150 boats were reported moored at the docks in Camarioca and Varadero awaiting improved weather conditions. Seas on the 90-mile run across the Florida straits were reported to be six to eight feet during squalls.

The Coast Guard cracked down on safety violations in boats used to bring in the refugees. It announced that three Americans were faced with $6000 fines each for "gross violation of safe navigation rules."

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